

REMARKS

Claims 20-44 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-19 are canceled and claims 20-44 are added. The features of claims 20-44 are found throughout the original specification. No new matter is added. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449 is filed herewith. The Examiner is requested to consider the references submitted and provide an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 with the next Patent Office communication.

II. Pending Claims 20-44 Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,508,834 to Yamada et al. (hereinafter "Yamada"), or alternatively under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,734,454 to Omae et al. (hereinafter "Omae"); claims 2 and 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Omae in view of Yamada; claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Omae in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,865,521 to Hashizume et al. (hereinafter "Hashizume"); claims 3 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Omae in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,910,682 to Arai et al. (hereinafter "Arai"); claims 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Omae in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,868,485 to Fujimori et al. (hereinafter "Fujimori 485"); claims 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,007,205 to Fujimori (hereinafter "Fujimori 205") in view of Yamada; claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fujimori 205 in view of Yamada and further in view of Arai; and claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamada in view of Fujimori 205. Claims 1-19 have been canceled. Thus, the rejection is moot.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests all the features of new claims 20-44.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 20-44 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:GPS/djb

Attachments:

Request for Continued Examination
Amendment Transmittal
Petition for Extension of Time
Information Disclosure Statement

Date: August 18, 2004

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